

Lisa Austin
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Family Testimony: Healthy Families Douglas County

To whom it may concern,

I have been with Healthy Families for 2.5 years now. When I first met my Family Support Specialist, I was homeless and had to live with my parents, but my partner was not allowed to stay with us. I have three children two are teens. My Family Support Specialist is seeing my youngest. My Family Support Specialist supported our family in finding a home that we all could live together. I come from a family where my parents used D/A my entire young life. Partner and I used Meth for 20 years before we lost everything we owned. This made us homeless. I was unaware how to parent a new baby, since I was more involved in drugs than I was raising a family. Since being in Healthy Families I learned how to bond with my baby and learned the importance of play, teaching developmental skills and understanding cues my child gave. My Family Support Specialist has supported us to get food from local pantries and to stay clean and sober along with many other referrals and resources throughout our time together. We now have family goals and with their support we have successfully reached them all. Our family will graduate from Healthy Families this November 2021. With the support of my Family Support Specialist and a well thought out plan my child will be transitioned to a Relief Nursery that has therapeutic classrooms, child therapy and offer us supports to continue our goals in having a healthy and happy family. I know if we did not have the support from Healthy Families, we would not be where we are today.

cc: Joint Ways & Means Chairs Betsy Johnson, Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, and Dan Rayfield

Governor Kate Brown

Senate President Peter Courtney

House Speaker Tina Kotek

Senate Minority Leader Fred Girod

House Minority Leader Christine Drazan

Senior Senator Ron Wyden

Junior Senator Jeff Merkley

Congressman Peter DeFazio

Congressman Greg Walden

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